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7<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
**OUTDOOR EDUCATION RESEARCH**  
— CONFERENCE —

UNAMA'KI/CAPE BRETON ISLAND  
NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

Cape Breton University  
**JULY 4-8, 2016**

## Human nature relations through the lens' of three European outdoor education traditions: a case study of a masters programme

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Travelling, curiosity and the quest for the unknown has been a key-metaphor for personal growth and human development for at least two thousand years. These ideas re-appeared in the late 13<sup>th</sup> century when students began to go on so-called peregrinations to foreign universities and reached their peak in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Today most universities world-wide value transcultural travelling and cooperation in their internationalization strategies. Financially supported by the European Union's education-programme *Erasmus Mundus*, a two-year joint international master's degree entitled *Transcultural European Outdoor Studies* (TEOS) was instigated in the fall of 2011 ([www.erasmusmundus-teos.eu](http://www.erasmusmundus-teos.eu)). The programme is run collaboratively by Phillips-Universität Marburg, Germany, University of Cumbria, UK, and Norwegian School of Sport Sciences. It is explicitly inspired by the ancient idea of Peregrinatio Academica. TEOS allows travelling cohorts of students to spend a semester at each of the universities to explore three main European outdoor traditions in their native contexts: Erlebnispädagogik, Outdoor Education and Friluftsliv, respectively. The concept of journeying or of being under way underpins most philosophies of outdoor education.

The presentation will examine the findings of our research examining, through a transcultural lens, the histories and practices of outdoor education in our three cultures. The intention is to deepen and discuss how ideas of travelling and transcultural sensitivity are argued and advanced in the aims, curriculum-development, study strategies and comparative research policy within TEOS and, secondly, to discuss the contribution to new understandings of the complexity of human-nature relationships in the increasingly globalizing field of outdoor pedagogies, that TEOS may represent.

## **Biographies**

**Peter Becker** is emeritus professor at Marburg University.

**Martin Lindner** is a lecturer with Marburg University and coordinator of the MA Transcultural European Outdoor Studies (TEOS).

**Dr. Chris Loynes** is reader in Outdoor Studies. He is also an educational advisor in the UK and internationally for universities and experiential education organizations. He is currently the chair of the European Outdoor Education Network. Chris leads TEOS at the University of Cumbria.

**Kirsti Pedersen Gurholt** is Professor of Friluftsliv in Oslo and leads TEOS in Norway.